

Abstract**VIRAL MARKER**

The invention relates to herpesviruses genetic markers, and provides methods and materials for sub-typing, classifying, identifying or monitoring an Equine herpesvirus type 1 (EHV-1) isolate, the method comprising use of genetic markers shown in Table 5 (preferably those shown in ORF68). In another aspect the invention provides methods and materials for assessing the virulence of herpesviruses comprising the use of genetic markers (e.g. within the herpesvirus DNA polymerase (ORF30 in EHV-1). In another aspect the invention provides vaccines based on the manipulation of the markers disclosed.